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THE MEADOW LARK.

Sturnella Magna.

BY C. C. MAXFIELD, WILLARD, N. Y.

Our Eastern Meadow Lark is about 10-11 in length; wing 5; tail 3 1-2; color above, in general effect, brown; but close examination reveals the color of each feather to be composed of black, brown and yellow; the under parts of light yellow, slightly streaked and spotted with black; a large crescent of black on the breast; the outer tail feather of same color as upper parts, but center feathers white; upper mandible straight; lower one showing a decided angle, and when the mouth is open appears as though bent downward; feet large, strong and light brown. In the young the general markings are similar; but the colors of the feathers are not as bright and definitely marked as in adult birds.

The first migrants arrive shortly after our common Robin, Bluebird and Song Sparrow. Notes for a number of consecutive years give April 2 as the earliest and April 8 as the latest. In the year 1884, a cold wave will account for their late arrival—April 8. For many years in succession the first birds were on April 4 or 5. They are to be found in autumn among the latest to leave, and occasionally a straggler will be found in mid-winter.

Nesting is commenced from the 15th to the 25th of June. In seven years' collection have taken but two sets—one July 3, 1882, another July 8, 1887. The nest is placed upon the ground amongst the tall meadow grass and is composed entirely of fine, dry grasses, such as can be found near the nesting site, and wholly or partially covered with the same, but in such a flimsy manner that the eggs can be easily seen through the top.

Both sets consisted of four eggs. The set taken in 1887 measures as follows: No. 1—1.12x.82; No. 2—1.06x81; No. 3—1.12x.81; No. 4—1.12.87. No. 1—General body of egg rather sparingly covered with small, brown spots (both light and dark brown). A cluster of largest spots at the large end; each spot fully .12 in. in diameter, light and dark brown being intermixed in each blotch. No. 2—Most heavily spotted egg of the set. Blotches at large end .09 in diame-

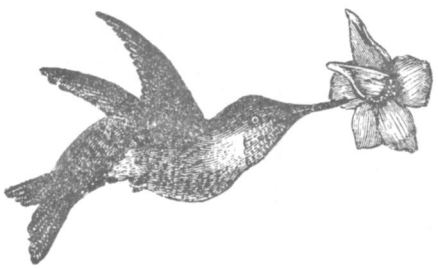
ter, but more of them than on No. 1. No. 3—Well spotted, but less than No. 2. Blotches at large end .08. Nearly half of small spots over the body of this egg have a light bluish cast. No. 4—Medium number of spots, light and brown. Ground color in whole set white. Incubation advanced about four days. From my limited observation must conclude that four is the usual number of eggs for this species.

NESTING OF THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.

Trochilus Colubris.

BY J. W. JACOBS, WAYNESBURG, PA.

The little Ruby-throat is found, during the warm summer months, throughout Eastern United States and some parts of Canada. In south-western Pennsylvania they arrive about the first of May, and before the close of the month nest-building begins.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.

Many times have I wandered through wood and grove in quest of the downy, little nest, containing the two tiny white treasures. My first successful search was on the 29th of May, 1887. It was Sunday—everything was still—and the heat of the morning sun had not yet sipped up the large drops of dew, which would occasionally drop from the tree-tops and spatter on our hands or shoulders. As we sauntered along, a Woodpecker started from his home in a "stub" and galloped away through the thicket; a frightened ground squirrel sought concealment behind a rock; a Red-tail slowly winged his way over the woods, and a rabbit bounded away through the weeds and disappeared over a little knoll.